



de maximis, inc.

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August 13, 2009

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Ms. Stephanie Vaughn
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 27 – July 2009
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/
Feasibility Study (RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Vaughn:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement.

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- Conference call with EPA on July 8 to discuss comments on the revised Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP.
- Conference call with EPA on July 10 to discuss Fish/Crab Tissue program sample design, including sample sizes.
- Conference call with EPA on July 15 to discuss amendments to the Fish/Crab Tissue program sample size estimates for the sample design.

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Correspondence

- Submission of Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP sample size term sheet to EPA on July 15.
- Submission of the June Progress Report to EPA on July 15.
- Submission of revised Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP sample size term sheet to EPA on July 16.
- Submission of revised draft Problem Formulation Document (PFD) to EPA on July 17.
- Receipt of EPA/PA comments on the Benthic QAPP on July 22.
- Submission of revised Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP to EPA on July 24.
- Receipt of final comments from EPA/PA on revised draft PFD on July 29.
- Receipt of comments from EPA/PA on revised Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP on July 31.
- Submission of revised PFD to EPA on July 31.

Work

- Data validation of the PCB partition study samples was completed in July in accordance with U.S. EPA Region 2 validation criteria and guidance.
- CPG continues to review data from the Low Resolution Coring (LRC) program.
- CPG is drafting the LRC Characterization Report which includes a description of the field activities, submittal of field records, analytical data results and presentation and summary of data validation results.
- CPG addressed comments from EPA regarding the revised draft Risk Assessment PFD.
- CPG addressed comments from the EPA regarding the revised draft Fish/Crab Tissue QAPP.
- CPG Modeling Team continued work on the LPR/NB Sediment Transport using a version of SEDZL-J.
- CPG has begun to review the Newark Bay physical water column monitoring data collected by Sommerfield and Chant.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

- Region 2 MEDD comprehensive submittal of all LRC data was provided to EPA on July 27 as an upload to the PREmis web portal.

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(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG is reviewing and performing QA/QC on the multibeam/single beam bathymetry data collected late in 2008.
- CPG intends to proceed with the three month fall survey of the Physical Water Column Monitoring in beginning in September 2009 assuming EPA approval of the QAPP.
- CPG will initiate planning activities for the Chemical Water Column Monitoring QAPP.
- CPG will continue preparation of the LRC Characterization Report.
- CPG will implement the Field Sampling Plan Volume 2 QAPPs.

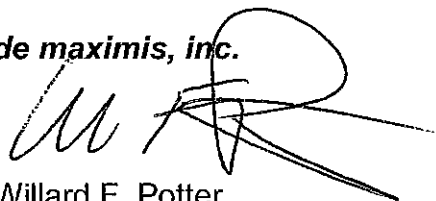
(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.

- None

If you have any questions, please contact me or Rob Law at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.



Willard F. Potter
Project Coordinator

cc: Pat Hick, EPA Office of Regional Counsel
Alice Yeh, EPA
William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel
Lisa Baron, USACE
Tim Kubiak, USFWS
Reyhan Mehran, NOAA
Janine MacGregor, NJDEP
Elkins Green, NJDOT
Laura Kelmar, AECOM